

Message

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**Sent:** 9/14/2018 5:39:49 PM  
**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** ECOS Offers Resources for Dealing with Florence, Tracks Methane and Water Infrastructure Action, & More

ECOS Offers Resources for Dealing with Florence, Tracks Methane and Water Infrastructure Action, & More

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## ECOSWIRE

Friday, September 14, 2018

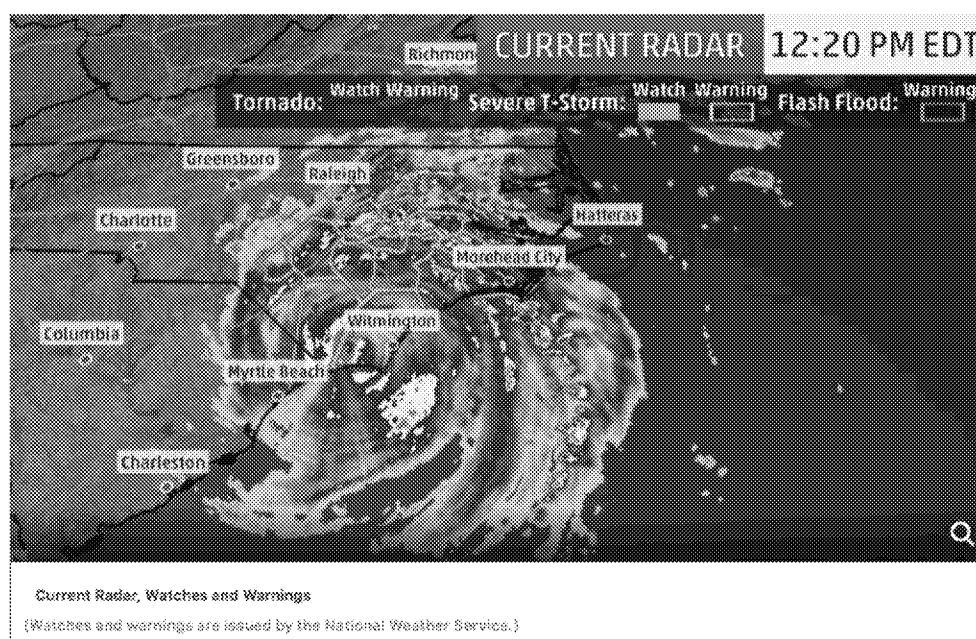
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## Hurricane Hot Tips: ECOS Compiles Helpful Resources for Dealing with Florence



ECOS knows that many states in the East are dealing with the effects of Hurricane

Florence. In light of the powerful storm, we pulled together resources that may be helpful for state regulators seeking information on effective and efficient debris management:

- ECOS Sustainable Materials Management Workgroup [webinar](#) on Disaster Debris: Planning and Relief (presentations by Louisiana, Texas, and U.S. EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery);
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management emergency debris [fact sheet](#);
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Chuck Carr Brown [online demonstration](#) of debris segregation in front of his own flooded home;
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality coastal adaptation plan, [LA SAFE](#);
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality [toolkit](#) for storm recovery and flooding;
- District Department of the Environment Environmental Emergency Response [Program](#);
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality hurricane response [protocol](#);
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality recovery [information](#);
- EPA Natural Disaster [FAQs](#); and
- EPA Region 5 Disaster Debris Recovery [mapping tool](#). [Longworth]

## **Action Requested: ECOS Seeks Input on Rural Waste Management Challenges & Best Practices**

ECOS, in coordination with the U.S. EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs and the National Tribal Caucus, is conducting a research project looking at waste management practices on rural and tribal lands. We will identify waste management projects and resources that address commonly shared challenges, highlight best practices, and encourage state-tribal partnerships.

If you have relevant projects or resources, please share a description with [Megan Swanson](#) of ECOS. Select projects will be featured in training calls with EPA, state, and tribal officials and featured in a report. [Swanson]

## **U.S. EPA Proposes Revisions to Obama-Era NSPS Rule for Methane**



On September 11, U.S. EPA proposed revisions to the oil and gas industry New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) on methane to adjust certain requirements in the 2016 rule and address technical issues. Among the amendments are reduced monitoring frequency at wellheads and compressor stations, a streamlined process for requesting alternative means of emissions limitations, and recognition of compliance with state methane programs as compliance with federal rules.

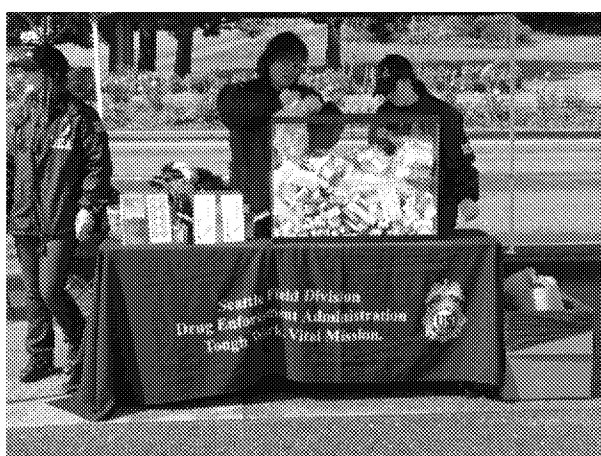
In the proposal, EPA indicates that the amendments would "significantly reduce regulatory burden" and "streamline requirements." Industry generally is welcoming the proposal, while environmental advocates maintain that the relaxed requirements will decrease health and environmental protection and allow methane leaks to persist.

EPA will take comment on the proposed rule for 60 days after the proposal is published in the *Federal Register* and will schedule a public hearing in Denver. In addition, EPA continues to consider other policy issues in the methane rule, including the regulation of greenhouse gases in the oil and gas sector, and plans to address these issues in a separate proposal later this year. [Poole]

## **U.S. EPA Issues Memo on Managing and Disposing of Collected Pharmaceuticals**

Responding to state requests for information and assistance, U.S. EPA Acting Administrator Wheeler has issued a [memo](#) on how best to manage and dispose of household collected pharmaceuticals from take-back programs. The memo, *Management of Household Pharmaceuticals Collected by Law Enforcement during Take-Back Events and Programs*, outlines how law enforcement can safely dispose of unwanted household pharmaceuticals collected through take-back programs.

For more information, see the U.S. EPA [press release](#). [Parisien]



## House Unanimously Passes Water Resources Infrastructure Bill

On September 13, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved bipartisan, comprehensive water resources infrastructure legislation that includes the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018).

The *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018* (S. 3021) resulted from negotiations among House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over various water resources and energy infrastructure issues. Title I of S. 3021 is WRDA 2018, which authorizes locally driven infrastructure improvements to water transportation and infrastructure to be carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additional provisions address stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water infrastructure and hydropower development.

Click [here](#) for more information. [Parisien]

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## State News You Can Use

[Iowa Recognized with National Award for Manure Management Innovation](#)

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[Missouri Offers Free Workshop on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Financing](#)

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## Need-to-Know News in Air, Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants, & Shale Gas Caucus

### U.S. EPA Announces Regional Haze Reform Roadmap

*Area of Focus: [Air](#)*

Over the next year, U.S. EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) will release a series of [implementation tools and guidance documents](#) that will help focus states' efforts and reduce the time and resources needed to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements under the regional haze program. According to EPA, this information will support states in their SIP development processes and provide key improvements for the upcoming second planning period.

EPA also will initiate a rulemaking to address certain aspects of its Regional Haze Rule. In

addition, the agency plans to sign actions converting regional haze federal implementation plans into state implementation plans in Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia. [Poole]

## **Tests to Study PFAS and Hurricane Florence Interaction**

*Area of Focus: Chemicals & Emerging Contaminants, PFAS*

Bloomberg Environment reports this week that researchers will monitor flooding from Hurricane Florence, which they say could exacerbate chemical contamination in communities along North Carolina's Cape Fear River.

A local water authority and scientists will study groundwater and surface water interactions to determine if per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) concentrations in local aquifers rise with hurricane flooding. The storm will enable scientists to learn how contaminants move through the watershed during and following an extreme weather event; they will test if contaminated groundwater will mix with rivers and streams or whether overflowing rivers and streams will instead deposit into the aquifer. The tests will take a few weeks to complete.

The Cape Fear River is well-known to those dealing with PFAS, as a Chemours manufacturing plant in Fayetteville, North Carolina was sued last year for exposing the river and nearby communities to high levels of GenX, a PFAS it produced. [Longworth]

## **U.S. EPA Plans October 9 Public Meeting on Produced Water Study**

*Shale Gas Caucus*

U.S. EPA will host a public meeting on its ongoing Oil and Gas Extraction Wastewater Study on **October 9** at agency headquarters. At the meeting, EPA will report on what it has learned to date and provide stakeholders the opportunity to provide additional input.

The ECOS Shale Gas Caucus, which has focused on produced water for the past two years, has engaged with U.S. EPA on the study launched in May 2018 and is following its development. EPA initiated the study to evaluate approaches to managing both conventional and unconventional oil and gas extraction wastewaters generated at onshore facilities. The agency is addressing questions such as how existing federal approaches to produced water management under the Clean Water Act can interact more effectively with



state and tribal regulations and requirements, and whether potential federal rules should be implemented that allow for broader discharge of treated produced water to surface waters.

For more information, click [here](#). [Parisien]

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## **E-Enterprise for the Environment**

[E-Enterprise](#)

### **Featured Community Inventory Question: Share Your State's Story of Collaboration with a Central IT Division**

Has your agency collaborated with your state's centralized IT organization? If so, head over to the E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform (EECIP) and participate in a discussion thread on this topic, started by Chris Simmers of New Hampshire.

Here's an example provided by Simmers: The New Hampshire Division of Environmental Services (NHDES) worked with the state Chief Information Officer to migrate hosting for a statewide online forms solution to Amazon Web Services' government cloud. The migration accelerated NHDES' rollout of online forms and helped them serve as an example for other state agencies.

Do you have a success story to contribute? Jump to the conversation by clicking [here](#), and first-time visitors to the inventory can register [here](#). [McAleer]

### **Reminder: EE2018 Is Around the Corner!**

The 2018 E-Enterprise National Meeting in Dallas, Texas is coming up on **October 23-25!** The meeting will feature valuable training opportunities, engaging speakers, interactive sessions, and more. Travel reimbursement is available through ECOS for a limited number of attendees from state agencies.



Visit the [meeting website](#) for free registration, lodging reservations, and more information. The deadline to reserve a room in the meeting block at the Dallas Addison Hotel is **October 1**. Pre-meeting discussions for some sessions will be held on the [E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform](#), so attendees should also be sure to sign up for that tool and enter their agency's E-Enterprise projects or Enterprise Services. [McAleer]

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## Career Opportunities

### CASE Fellowship on Emerging Contaminants/Per- & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) is accepting applications for a two-year fellowship at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to begin between November 2018 and January 2019. The mission of the Connecticut Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program is to provide opportunities for fellows and policymakers to learn from each other for the purpose of ensuring that science and technology are considered in the development of policy and legislation.

The deadline for applications is **December 3**. Learn more [here](#). [Olonoff]

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## Upcoming Events

### ITRC Training Classes and Webinars

The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) invites your participation in several upcoming training opportunities:

- Geophysical Classification for Munitions Response - **September 18, 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern Webinar**
- Geospatial Analysis for Optimization at Environmental Sites - **September 20, 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern, Webinar**
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion: Fundamentals of Screening, Investigation, and Management - **September 25, 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern, Webinar**
- Petroleum Vapor Intrusion - **October 10-11**, Seattle, Washington
- Managing PFAS Contamination at Your Site - **October 12**, Montclair, New Jersey
- Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (LNAPL) - **October 12**, St. Louis, Missouri

## **U.S. EPA Webinar on SMM**

U.S. EPA will hold its monthly Tools and Resources Webinar on **September 19 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The focus will be on sustainable materials management (SMM) and EPA's new SMM Prioritization State Tool, which allows users to screen for potential impacts of goods and services, and distinguish between activities occurring within or outside of any particular state. To register, see [here](#).

## **Rescheduled ECOS PFAS Caucus Call**

ECOS will hold its first PFAS Caucus call on **September 25 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern** (note that the date has changed due to the impacts of Hurricane Florence on several states involved in this effort). The call will address the goals of the caucus and provide an opportunity to hear from states involved in recent regulatory and investigatory efforts.

The PFAS Caucus, ECOS' newest working group, promotes the exchange of information and best practices among state and federal agency staff. The calls will be held bimonthly on the months opposite the ECOS-U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development technical PFAS workgroup.

To get involved, email [Sarah Grace Longworth](#) of ECOS. [Longworth]

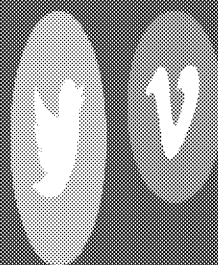
## **Compliance Research for Effective Government Webinar Series**

ECOS and U.S. EPA are hosting a new webinar series entitled *Compliance Research for Effective Government*. The series will help state and EPA program administrators

understand how collaboration with academics can identify effective and measurable approaches to compliance. The first webinar featured the Ohio Signage at Outfalls Study with presenters Brian Hall of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Jay Shimshack of the University of Virginia. The future webinar schedule is:

- **October 4, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: Compliance Assurance Toolbox.** David Hindin, Office of Compliance, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. EPA, and Sam Sankar, ECOS.
- **October 23, 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern: Two Uses of Data Analytics:** one to predict air quality and inform the public and the other to improve compliance. Daniel Dix, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Christina Seybolt, University of Chicago.
- **November 8, 1-2 p.m. Eastern: Compliance Interventions on the Behaviors of Third Party Lead Contractors.** Andrew Gosden, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Dr. Ben Meiselman, Johns Hopkins University.
- **December 11, 1-2 p.m. Eastern: New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Generator Training Program.** Tim Prospert, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and Dr. Sarah Strafford, College of William and Mary.

For more information, please contact [Sonia Altieri](#) of ECOS. [Altieri]



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